

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer. He announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz, Acting Police Chief Mark Wohner, Solicitor Chris Griffiths

Minutes from July 18, 2018, meeting were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. All ayes.

Public Comment - Erin Goldner, Hope Street DE, announced that the 3rd Annual First Responders Day would be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, across from the James Street Tavern. A few flyers were provided with Erin's contact information and information about the event.

Jeff Kowalczyk, Barbacane Thornton, presented the results from the 2017 audit. He noted that they were onsite for a week in May. He explained that the audit shows two types of data - entity-wide, which shows assets such as the buildings and fund-level statements, which shows short-term activity. It was indicated that the financial statements were fairly presented and they have given a clean opinion. He reviewed the statements with council, offered explanations to questions and advised that expenses were overall under budget for the year.

Town Manager's Report - Auditors presented results from 2017. Board of Adjustment workshop coming up on 9/21. Dominick Mills left the police department to pursue a career with New Castle City. The position is currently open for a certified police officer. Police department has been cleaned up, painted and new office equipment (desks/chairs/partitions) has been set up. Court has been slow as has the town. Our new alderman, Michael Sczcerba, is doing well and is working with our current alderman. Property encroachment issue - to have our engineer stake it out, it will cost around \$8,000. It was surveyed previously, so the need to have it done again is to be determined. There was much discussion about the matter and different approaches in handling the situation.

Police Chief's Report - Monthly statistics. Acting Chief Wohner advised that all cars with the exception of one, will be equipped with cages. Residents of 102 E. Ayre apartments were thankful that enforcement has been done at stop sign at E. Ayre and S. Marshall.

Alderman's Report - \$29,624 in court fines collected.

Maintenance Report - Presented with no questions.

Code Enforcement - Home coming into town was written up for grass and other items.

Solicitor's Report - Property encroachment issue, capital expenditures ordinance, personnel issue, tax monitions.

Commissioners - Vice Mayor Joswick mentioned that the pillars outside were rotted. Bob mentioned that he was in the process of finding a contractor for repair. Archway should be wrapped.

Mayor's Report - Bridge is moving along. He asked commissioners to send letters to the Coast Guard regarding the bridge. There is a meeting at the end of the month regarding the bike trail, meeting with DTC on 8/27 to discuss park and ride upgrades. There was a 1.3% variance in the expense budget for the audit which was very good. Mayor Spencer was wondering if the Alderman Court could hear code enforcement issues. We are able to, but a process has to be developed and the ordinances have to be loaded/extracted from CJIS/Deljis system.

Commissioner Gretz discussed issue with loose dogs going up and down Augustine Street. Animal control should be contacted for items like that.

Motion to adjourn - Vice Mayor Joswick; Commissioner Chatburn seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.